

Academy Draws Bright Minds to Healthcare

by Cindy Abole, MUSC Public Relations

During early summer, it is typical to find teenagers at a nearby beach, on vacation or spending time with their friends. For about 31 young men and women, their first weeks of June were spent with their peers learning some fundamentals needed to become successful physicians, nurses, dentists or other type of healthcare professionals.

For the sixth year, the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (SC AHEC) and MUSC teamed up to offer the Summer Careers Academy, held June 6-11 in Charleston.

The program is designed to help students, especially minority and

disadvantaged individuals, as they get the chance to explore careers in medicine and healthcare within South Carolina. The program is co-sponsored by SC AHEC and MUSC's colleges of Dental Medicine, Nursing, Medicine and the MUSC Library.



Students share details about osteoporosis and dental treatments with Summer Academy fellows and guests during the June 11 poster session

Participants must be South Carolina residents, age 18 or older, and must be enrolled or accepted into an accredited college or university for Fall 2010. They must also show an interest or desire in studying nursing, medicine or dentistry.

"Our goal is to catch students early on especially as they begin their undergraduate education

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Seventeen Year SCRIPT Program Takes Hiatus Due to State Budget Cuts

The South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) has found it necessary to place its South Carolina Rural Interprofessional Program of Training (SCRIPT) program on hiatus for the 2011 fiscal year due to the elimination of funding for the South Carolina AHEC Health Professions Student Rural Infrastructure Development Program. These funds have supported the continuation of SCRIPT since 2007 when the Quentin N. Burdick Program was removed from the federal budget. It is the hope of the SC AHEC that these funds will be restored by the state legislature so that SCRIPT may be held again in 2012.

Since 1993, the Bureau of Health Professions' Quentin N. Burdick Program for Rural Interdisciplinary Training has funded SCRIPT. Lowcountry AHEC (one of the current 4 centers of South Carolina AHEC) was awarded its first Burdick grant and in 2000, Lowcountry AHEC received an additional SCRIPT grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Southern Rural Access Program, which was administered in South Carolina by the South Carolina Office of Rural Health. The RWJF grant allowed the program to go beyond the lowcountry of South Carolina by developing SCRIPT into a statewide program.

A total of 866 South Carolina health professions students have completed the SCRIPT program during the last 17 years (1994-2010). These students were from fourteen (14) health professions disciplines and seven South Carolina universities.

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and plan and make decisions about their careers,” said Angelica Christie, SC AHEC Health Careers Program director. “This program allows participants to get important information and be guided by the programs and institutions that teach and prepare our state’s health professionals. Students who complete this program should have the knowledge and experience to make some informed decisions about their course work, activities and professional networking behaviors necessary to prepare them in college and beyond.”

The academy was established in 2004 as a program to increase interest in nursing throughout South Carolina. Its success later expanded to include dental students (2006) and medical students (2008). Christie hopes the program will expand and include additional health career fields in future sessions and continue to attract talented students.

A key component to the program is an emphasis on interprofessional training where students form and are taught the value of interdisciplinary health teams, a practice that is being used widely in hospitals and healthcare institutions. Working in teams enhances a student learning, communication and sharing of experiences, according to Christie.

Florence native John Duncan, an incoming College of Charleston freshman, enjoyed the interactive team training in MUSC’s new Simulation Center located in the College of Nursing.

Roysean Philson, also of the College of Charleston, liked the hands-on teaching approach offered at the Simulation Center and review of the gross anatomy lab. Philson’s shadowing experience paired him with Children’s Hospital pediatricians James Roberts, M.D., and Luther Williams, M.D.

“I would not have learned what I did in that one week without participating in the job shadowing and other summer academy experiences,” said Philson. “I realized that this experience could potentially open some important doors that could help me achieve my goal of becoming a doctor.”

In addition to the student’s positive experiences, participating faculty praised the program’s

successes. College of Dental Medicine diversity director Gwendolyn Brown, DMD, has participated in the health careers program since 2006, the first year the dental track was offered to students interested in dentistry. For 2010, she was glad to work with three dental career academy students: Alicia Lamar, Jaquanique Sanders and Charles Wingate. The team won third place in the annual interdisciplinary poster competition.



Students participate in academic preparation

“The dental students, as well as all academy participants, did a wonderful job,” said Brown. Dental student fellows must meet additional criteria and must have completed a minimum of 12 hours of academic credit from an accredited college or university.

The interdisciplinary poster project challenges all academy students to learn and report on a wide range

of healthcare topics from obesity, osteoporosis and bone regeneration to diabetes and advanced technologies and other health disparities. Throughout the program, teams conducted research and translated their findings in a PowerPoint presentation on the academy’s final day, June 11.

Winners in the poster presentations were: first place—“Osteoporosis: Bad to the Bone” by Megan Thompson, Christina Bodison, Demetria Bumster and Essence Jackson; second place—“Price of a Snack (Diabetes)” by Lakedra Robinson, Taylor Priester, Austin Gray and Elizabeth Brown; and third place—“How do medicines used for osteoporosis affect dental treatment” by Lamar, Sanders and Wingate. Academy fellows also recognized Wingate with the program’s peer role model award.

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South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium

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The breakdown of SCRIPT participation by discipline is as follows.

Nursing	Medicine	Pharmacy	Health Administration	Physician Assistant	Physical Therapy	Speech Pathology
228	182	150	60	52	33	32
Occupational Therapy	Dental	Nutrition	Advanced Practice Nursing	Social Work	Public Health	Nurse Midwifery
26	24	24	24	14	11	6

SCRIPT has shown that immersion of health professions students for a relatively short period of time (5 weeks) in rural, interdisciplinary, community-based health-care increases their likelihood of working in interdisciplinary teams and selecting rural, underserved practice. Five SCRIPT alumni surveys were conducted in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009. The surveys have concluded that over 90% of alumni demonstrate intent to practice on an interdisciplinary team and secondly that over 40% were either practicing in a rural area or intend to practice in a rural area.



South Carolina AHEC would like to thank all of our many partner universities, community liaisons, health professions student preceptors, the Health Professions Student Coordinators, and the SCRIPT students for all of their work and enthusiasm over the years to make SCRIPT the outstanding program that it is. We will continue to work to restore this program in the future. For more information, please contact Diane Kennedy at kennedyd@lcahec.com.

2010 Statewide Recruiting Trip to Kansas City a Success

Jackie McBride, Self Regional Healthcare Family Medicine Residency Program Coordinator

The American Academy of Family Physician's National Conference for Students and Residents was held on July 29- 31, 2010 in Kansas City. This is an annual conference providing family medicine residents and medical students the opportunity to learn more about residency programs, attend seminars, and participate in several hands-on learning opportunities. Conference focus areas ranged from career planning and practice management to clinical skills and research.

Throughout the conference, all eight Family Medicine Residency Programs from South Carolina stayed busy at the recruiting booth meeting medical students and explaining to them the benefits of completing residency training in South Carolina. A total of 133 medical students from around the country

visited the booth and were eager to learn more about our state and residency programs.

Each student was given their choice of either a custom designed pen light or a blue aluminum water bottle with the South Carolina logo. The water bottle was the popular choice!

This year's conference was a success for each South Carolina Family Medicine Residency Program and for the residents and students that attended. Special thanks to Becky Seignous,

Director of Recruitment and Retention Programs at South Carolina AHEC, and Marci Way, Program Coordinator at Greenville Hospital System Family Medicine Residency Program, for their help in the planning and organization of this year's event! For more information about South Carolina AHEC's Family Medicine Programs, visit www.scahec.net and select Graduate Medical Education.



Potential residents interact with all South Carolina programs

Why A Community Rotation?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) made a decision several years ago that more of the clinical training for medical students and residents should occur in community physicians' offices. Though not stated as such, the thought was that this location for training, especially for those with an interest in primary care, was more "real world" in its approach. Of course, like most other things, there are "pros" and "cons" to training in the community.

Physicians, by and large, are teachers. They teach their staff how they wish the office to be run, and how the patients are to be cared for. They teach their patients what they need to know about their illness, about their medication, etc. So therefore, it is only natural for physicians to extend these talents to medical students and residents.

Most physicians like for patients to see that they have "learners" in the office - that their physician is teaching! A community physician who is sought by the medical school or nearby residency training program for their medical knowledge and their ability to teach has shown a high level of professional competence. Patients often gain a sense of pride that they are cared for by someone who has been selected to impart their knowledge to the next generation of physicians.

Most of the above contain the "pros" of training in a community setting. I said there were often "cons" that go along with this issue. Cons would include teacher fatigue, very busy or small practices, limited support staff resources, etc.

Most primary care rural physicians, particularly those in small offices, see many patients and are very busy. Students placed in that environment should indicate a desire to help lighten the load. This usually rings positively with a busy family doctor and they will likely generate extra energy for the student.

Rural primary care medicine is where the "rubber meets the road". One never knows what is behind the next exam room door. It could be a newborn in for its first check-up, the 80-year old with painful joints or a pre-participation form for the Senior Olympics! If you want to see a full spectrum of healthcare, all types of diseases and conditions, and a variety of ages, spend some time in a community physician's office.

It matters not what you plan to do with your future training and practice, only that you can see medicine practiced in a community physician's office. Try it, you might like it!

- Dr. William Hester is a South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Program Director at McLeod Family Medicine in Florence, SC

Second Annual David L. Keisler Visiting Scholar in Family Medicine

On Friday, March 5, 2010, the Palmetto Health Family Medicine Residency Program hosted the second annual David L. Keisler Visiting Scholar in Family Medicine lecture in the Palmetto Health Richland auditorium. This year's visiting scholar, Michael K. Magill, MD, presented to 143 physicians, residents, students and other healthcare professionals from throughout the state.

Since 2000, Dr. Magill has led the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics' Community Clinics, and is currently serving as their Executive Medical Director. The Clinics are a 10-practice multidisciplinary ambulatory care network with 100 physicians and extensive ancillary services including primary and specialty care, pharmacy, endoscopy, imaging (plain radiograph, CT,

mammogram, ultrasound), central laboratory, and vision services. They serve over 100,000 active patients with 350,000 visits annually.

Dr. Magill is a Hicken Professor and Chairman in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine and Executive Medical Director of Community Clinics at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He completed medical school, a Family Medicine residency, and a Faculty Development fellowship at Duke University. He previously served as Director of Faculty Development in Family Medicine at the University of Arizona, and as Director of the community hospital-based Family Medicine Residency Program in Tallahassee, Florida. He is also the founding and current Director of the Utah AHEC Program, is Past-President of the Association of Departments of Family Medicine, and is a member of the ACGME Review Committee for accreditation of Family Medicine Residency Programs.

Family Medicine Professor Receives Leadership Award

Each year the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors' Board of Directors receives applications nominating program directors from across the country for the Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award. Additionally, members of the AFMRD Board of Directors have the challenging task of selecting one nominee to represent program directors who are actively directing a family medicine residency program, demonstrate leadership and advancement of family



medicine, serve as a mentor to medical students and residents and contribute to the community in which he or she serves. Past recipients of this award stand in distinguished company.

The individual who was honored at the 42nd Annual Workshop for Directors of Family Medicine Residencies as the 2010 Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director is Dr. Peter Carek, from Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Carek is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and the MUSC/ Trident Family Medicine Residency Program Director. He is an active member of his community, advocate for his residents and faculty and natural leader. Dr. Carek is a frequently cited scholar, excellent teacher and a trusted family physician. When not doing his "day job", he is a particularly committed husband, father and son.



Dr. Carek was recognized as the nation's Outstanding Program Director

The Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award is an award that recognizes a family medicine program director for his/her outstanding contribution to the field. To be considered for this prominent award, all nominees must be members of both the AAFP and the AFMRD, and must have been actively directing a family medicine residency for at least the past five years. The winner of the award must demonstrate leadership and advancement of family medicine, service as a mentor to medical students and/or residents, contribute to the organizations of the Family of Family Medicine and contribute to the community he/she serves.

Of Greek descent, Dr. Zervanos, or Nik as he's known amongst friends and family, assumed the program director position at the Lancaster General Hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program in 1969. For 33 years, Dr. Zervanos spent tireless hours mentoring family medicine residents to become tomorrow's leaders while exhibiting a contagious passion impossible to ignore.

Upon his retirement in 2002, the AAFP and the AFMRD decided to honor Dr. Zervanos for his contributions and commitment to family medicine and awarded him the inaugural Outstanding Program Director Award, which of course bears his name.

Since then, the Nikitas J. Zervanos Outstanding Program Director Award has been given out annually and the winner is recognized at the AFMRD's annual business session at the Academy's Workshop for Directors of Family Medicine Residencies.

Source: Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

*Editor's Note: Dr. Carek also recently coauthored an article in the June 1010 issue of **Family Medicine**, the Journal of the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, entitled "Promoting Resident Scholarship Through a Statewide Symposium".*

Ramage Award Presented to Thompson A. Gailey, Jr., MD

The fifth Annual Raymond C. Ramage, MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was presented to Thompson A. Gailey, Jr., MD, Vice Chair of Community Affairs, Attending Physician of OB Center and Co-Director of Ambulatory Obstetrics at the Greenville Hospital System. Dr. Jerry Youkey, Vice President for Medical and Academic Services presented the award to Dr. Gailey at the Residents' Graduation Ceremonies on June 16th.

The Ramage Award was established by South Carolina AHEC to recognize a deserving faculty member in a specialty other than family medicine. The award is based on a similar award, The Halford Award, which recognizes a family physician for leadership in humane education. Dr. Raymond Ramage was an integral part of the formation of the South Carolina Consortium of Community Teaching Hospitals in 1970 and was a "founding father" of the South Carolina AHEC in 1972. From 1979 to 1982, he served as chairman of a task force on graduate medical education charged with developing and integrating South Carolina's medical education schools and teaching hospitals, and he served as Governor Carroll Campbell's appointee on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education from 1988 to 1996.



Dr. Ramage's daughter, Mrs. Marguerite Ramage, with Dr. Gailey as he receives the 2010 Ramage Award

Dr. Youkey quoted some of the statements that were included in Dr. Gailey's nomination letters:

"In this age when "change" is the mantra, I must applaud the unchanging character of Dr. Thompson Gailey, Jr., MD. For the past 40 years, he has been a bulwark of medical professionalism in the Upstate of South Carolina. He has continually served as a most caring physician, patient teacher, gentle mentor and tireless advocate for women and infants. In everything he does, Dr. Gailey has exemplified an outstanding reverence for life."

"In short, Dr. Gailey's integrity, knowledge, wisdom, kindness and empathy earn him tremendous respect from the entire medical community and his patients. His lifetime of actions within the medical community speak loudly of his dedication to learning, teaching, and serving."

"Dr. Gailey has been acknowledged within our own community on many occasions. He has won national faculty awards and awards from the USC School of Medicine for faculty member of the year. He has won excellence in teaching awards from the Association of Professors of Gynecology Obstetrics, a South Carolina Perinatal Achievement Award, and a DHEC award for physician of the year. He routinely is in Columbia advocating for the poor, the uninsured, and the undocumented who are all vital members of the community. This impressive list of achievements is made even more special by experiencing the humility of this giant in our field. I can think of no one more deserving for the Ramage Award than Dr. Gailey."

"I can confidently say that you could find no candidate more deserving of an award for 'leadership in humane education'. That has, in fact, been the goal and path of his entire professional life – to help others acquire superior knowledge and skill to care for women with respect and kindness."

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Pee Dee Students R.I.S.E.

Kam Richardson and Traci Coward, Health Professions Students Coordinators, Pee Dee AHEC

The Pee Dee Area Health Education Center in collaboration with the Medical University of South Carolina College of Health Professions has designed and implemented a new Rural Interprofessional Student Experience (R.I.S.E.).

This course is designed to provide students the opportunity to transition from the didactic to the clinical phase of physician assistant education in a rural community healthcare system. The purpose is to enhance the educational experience through observational learning and involvement in patient care in several medically underserved areas.



R.I.S.E. students participate in interprofessional activities

Eleven students participated in this three week experience. They were placed in four different hospitals in a three county area of the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. Each student worked independently with various preceptors, as well as within their prospective teams. The students learned to identify steps rural hospitals take to limit barriers to care; explain the roles of hospital departments and relationships between them; explain how interdepartmental communication affects patient care; produce a diagram demonstrating the relationships between hospital departments and the surrounding healthcare community; describe the population demographics of the community the hospital serves, and explain how healthcare system structures are varied based on payment structures.

Through student group discussions, they created a presentation that evaluated the structure and hierarchy of each hospital. The intent of this shared learning experience

was to disseminate a new understanding of the rural healthcare system by exposing students to the “big picture”- providing them with a broader understanding of how the rural healthcare model functions.

For their final project, each group of students submitted required diagrams illustrating the physical relationships of their particular facility and surrounding healthcare community. They also explained how this geographic

data aided or hindered the delivery of healthcare, how it influenced the patient population, and how it might be improved.

At the completion of the program, one student said, “I like that we have gotten to see different parts of the hospital, which we may not have had the chance to see as physician assistants”. Another student added, “It gives us an appreciation for the hospital as a whole, not just one clinical area or department.”

R.I.S.E. was a very successful program for the first year, and Pee Dee AHEC hopes it will continue for many years to come. For more information on the R.I.S.E. program, please contact Pee Dee AHEC at 943-777-5343 or www.peedeeahhec.net.

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Dr. Gailey was truly honored with this award. Dr. Ramage hired him for his job at the Greenville Hospital System and he has remained there ever since. He said that Dr. Ramage was a great mentor. He also knew Dr. Ramage's daughter, Mrs. Marguerite Ramage, who was present at the ceremony.

Mr. Jim Freeman, Administrator of Academic Services at the Greenville Hospital System, said, “I know of no finer man or a physician as well respected and admired as Dr. Thompson Gailey.”

Congratulations to Dr. Gailey on receiving the 2010 Ramage Award!

Summer Institute Inspires Next Generation

Angelica E. Christie, MEd, Director, Health Careers Program

Historically, high school and college students throughout the nation eagerly anticipate the months of summer. This is true for the students who participate in the Health Careers Program during the academic year. However, while the majority of students are looking forward to relaxed days that start around midday, there are a select few who elect to network, explore and prepare to become health professions students by attending the annual South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Summer Institute.

The Institute was hosted June 15 – 18 on the campus of Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC. The Institute provided sessions on career exploration, academic achievement and professional development. Sessions were facilitated by individuals with backgrounds in education, business, industry and health care. The presenters offered insights into 15 health professions, identified resources and provided techniques to promote academic and professional success.

The addition of a service-learning component to the Institute served as the culmination of the 2010 Health Careers Academy Statewide Service Learning Initiative. Activities were designed by student members of the regional AHEC Health Career Academies in honor of former Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program Coordinator, and breast cancer survivor, Angel Clark. The theme of the Institute, "Recognize, Fight, Survive, Cure", was submitted by Mid-Carolina Academy Fellow,

Garrett Wilson, and was voted on by the Academy participants statewide. Programming was facilitated through a dual approach:

EDUCATION & AWARENESS: Regional Academy participants developed information sessions around a cancer-related topic. The regionally selected topics were:

Lowcountry - Smoke Free Kids
Mid-Carolina - You Are What You Eat!
Pee Dee - Best Bones Forever
Upstate - Sun Safety

COMMUNITY IMPACT: Academy Fellows, with the guidance and support of the regional Health Careers Program Coordinators, secured resources to help with the creation of 100 Cancer Survival Kits. The Kits, that included items that are useful for breast cancer chemotherapy patients, were presented to the Piedmont Medical Center Chemotherapy Clinic at the close of the Institute.

The Leadership Banquet and Dance again proved to be among the Institute highlights. Health Careers Program graduate, Deno Adkins who is employed as the Director of MedCenter Kernersville and MedCenter High Point was the motivational speaker of the evening. His presentation stressed the 10 top things students should know to assist in the successful pursuit of a career in health. Special presentations were made to the following:

South Carolina AHEC Student of the Year:
Bobbi Blake - Lowcountry AHEC

Regional Students of the Year:
Bobbi Blake - Lowcountry AHEC,
Demetria Bannister - Mid-Carolina AHEC,
Rog'Shonda Walters - Pee Dee AHEC,
Kelsey Williams - Upstate AHEC



Deno Adkins provided participants with the top 10 things they should know as they work towards a career in healthcare



Roysean Philson, a College of Charleston freshman, discusses career goals with Dr. G. Fredric Mau

Team Building:

Jerome Armstrong - Mid-Carolina AHEC
 Kyle Bruce - Pee Dee AHEC
 Kaleb Carter - Pee Dee AHEC
 Shanique Cooper - Mid-Carolina AHEC
 Tanesha Green-Baker - Lowcountry AHEC
 Alexis Hollis - Upstate AHEC
 Errol Williams - Pee Dee AHEC
 Garrett Wilson - Mid-Carolina AHEC
 Loretta Young - Lowcountry AHEC

Regional Role Models:

Byron Anderson - Mid-Carolina AHEC
 Ryan Davis - Pee Dee AHEC
 Kelsey Williams - Upstate AHEC
 Jalen Youmans - Lowcountry AHEC

Peer Role Model: Jerel Lee - Lowcountry AHEC

Scholarship:

Veronica Alcantar - Upstate AHEC
 Kristen Jackson - Mid-Carolina AHEC
 Della Mack - Lowcountry AHEC
 Javae McWhite - Pee Dee AHEC

Essay: Mahir Patel - Upstate AHEC

Talent: Michael Sprauve - Pee Dee AHEC

Collaborative partnerships with the Regional AHEC Centers, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, Bell South, U.S. Navy, Blue Choice and Palmetto Health were instrumental to the successful implementation of this year's Institute. Visit the South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program Facebook page to view pictures and student comments from the 2010 Health Careers Summer Institute.

Lowcountry AHEC's Health Careers Academy

Natasha Chatman, Health Careers Program Coordinator, Lowcountry AHEC

Lowcountry Area Health Education Center (AHEC)'s Health Careers Academy (HCA) finished the 2009-2010 school year with a culminating ceremony to recognize the hard work of its members. The ceremony was held



Lowcountry AHEC presented white coats to the 2010 Health Careers Academy graduates

this spring in the Colleton County High School Auditorium. Parents, mentors, and community leaders were in attendance, as well as, Mr. Tavy Smalls, Lowcountry AHEC's former Health Careers Program (HCP) Coordinator. The keynote speaker for this event was William C. Dixon Jr., A.B.D., the assistant superintendent of the Colleton County School District. He provided students with an encouraging message on staying focused and reaching their academic goals.

Throughout the school year, HCA members participated in monthly classes that taught social, academic, and professional skills needed for the healthcare field. They also participated in AHEC's mentoring program, volunteer opportunities, and service learning projects. Because of their hard work and commitment, members were awarded certificates

and gifts. The highlight of the evening was the White Coat Ceremony that symbolized a member's transition to the next step in the Health Careers Pipeline. Fourteen twelfth grade members were recognized and appointed to receive white coats with a blue embroidered HCA symbol. These members demonstrated great dedication throughout their high school career and will be continuing their educational journey to a post-secondary institution.

Lowcountry AHEC continues to seek programs to motivate HCA members to stay actively involved in the academy for all four years of their high school career. Levi Blue, a graduating senior, views the HCA as an excellent resource that played a vital role in planning his pathway beyond high school. Mr. Blue states, "The opportunities offered through the HCA were very valuable and helped to steer me in the right direction." Lowcountry AHEC's HCA is making a positive difference in the lives of its members. One hopes that this culminating ceremony gives HCA members one more reason to complete their four-year commitment to the program.

Three Francis Marion University Students Receive South Carolina AHEC Nursing Scholarship

In the past few years, South Carolina AHEC's Health Careers Program has had the privilege of offering nursing scholarships to students involved in nursing programs at local colleges and universities. This year, three applicants from Francis Marion University were each honored by receiving a \$1,000 scholarship from South Carolina AHEC. Each of these students is pursuing a Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree. The students are Melissa Davis, Angel Godbolt, and Whitnee Godwin.

Melissa Davis is a scholarship recipient who is originally from Florence, SC. Melissa attended Wilson High School in Florence and completed an externship this summer at McLeod Regional Medical Center in Florence. When asked about receiving the South Carolina AHEC scholarship, Melissa stated, "The lending hand of AHEC assists individuals who are pursuing an education. This, in turn, allows these individuals to help others in need." Melissa has long known that she wanted to become a nurse, and she is well on her way to reaching her goal.

Angel Godbolt is a scholarship recipient who is originally from Mullins, SC and attended Creek Bridge High School. Angel has a burning desire to become a healthcare professional, specifically a registered nurse. According to Angel, "Being involved in the healthcare field has truly allowed me the opportunity to care for the ones who are in need. I'm excited to return to school and further prepare myself to provide competent, caring

bedside service." While Angel has some experience in the healthcare field, she looks forward to gaining even more knowledge.



*Gail Weaver and Tavy Smalls (ends) presented
Melissa Davis, Whitnee Godwin and Angel Godbolt
with nursing scholarships*

Whitnee Godwin is a scholarship recipient who is originally from Florence, SC. Whitnee attended West Florence High School and has been very conscious of the healthcare field for a very long time. Whitnee's mother,

Catherine Godwin, is a Director of Nursing at McLeod Regional Medical Center. Whitnee stated, "I have had many influences in my life that have made me realize the importance of the hard work and the dedication that it takes to be a member of a healthcare team. AHEC is a great program and I appreciate all that they have done for me. I encourage other students to get involved in the program."

South Carolina AHEC is very proud of the Nursing Scholarship Recipients for 2010 and believes that each student has a very bright future in the healthcare field. Each of this year's scholarship recipients has agreed to be mentors for students that participate in the Health Careers Program. It is our goal for these three young ladies to have a long-standing influence on the individuals involved in the South Carolina AHEC system. For more information, visit www.scahec.net.



Interested in Learning More About South Carolina AHEC Health Careers Programs?

Complete an information request form online at www.scahec.net. Information will be sent to you for any of our programs.

Programs Include: Health Careers Academy, Summer Institute & Summer Health Careers Academy

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Health Careers Program Successes Presented at Conference

Angelica E. Christie, MEd, Director, Health Careers Program Director

The Health Careers Program (HCP) shined at the forefront during the National AHEC Organization Conference June 20 – 24, 2010. HCP Council members facilitated two concurrent sessions and a workshop highlighting program accomplishments. Ten abstracts were submitted by the South Carolina AHEC for consideration by the NAO conference committee for presentation at the 2010 conference. All submitted abstracts were accepted including the four submitted by the HCP Council:

“Coalition for Health Careers Faith-Based Health Career Initiative Offers Opportunities for Students/Parents”

- In a 2-hour workshop, Pee Dee Coordinator, Tavy Smalls, presented the Faith-Based Health Careers Initiative that was developed and facilitated by the Pee Dee Coalition for Health Careers. The Initiative is designed to provide information and resources to support the exploration of health careers by youth engaged in faith based activities. While highlighting the content, development and implementation processes, Mr. Smalls' presentation addressed challenges associated with rural programming. Session participants included AHECers from Mississippi and Alaska. “There was a great deal of interest in how successful our program was in getting information out into rural areas of the state”, Mr. Smalls said.



South Carolina AHEC was well represented by Tavy Smalls and Dr. David Garr during workshops and leadership sessions

“South Carolina Diversity Coalitions: Statewide approach for extending the outreach to under-represented and minority students”

- Latoya Dodson, Upstate coordinator, collaborated with Mid-Carolina AHEC Center Director, Cheri Plyler, and HCP Director, Angelica Christie to present the goals, outcomes, and best practices of convening community based groups to expand exploration opportunities. The presentation demonstrated the value of establishing a firm foundation for a seamless, statewide, minority health professions pipeline supported through coordination and collaboration between organizations and institutions committed to racial and ethnic diversity in the state's healthcare workforce.

“Pathways to Success in South Carolina: Innovative Teach the Teacher Academy”

- Integrating exploration into the curriculums of middle and high school classes provides a unique opportunity for student exposure to health careers. In this session, Program Office staffers, Paula Jones, and Angelica Christie outlaid the South Carolina AHEC Teach the Teacher Academy. The Academy provides instructional tools to support health career exploration instruction for students by middle and high school educators.



Paula Jones and Angelica Christie presented outcomes from the Teach the Teacher Academy

“Being selected to present at the NAO Conference was a rewarding experience,” Paula Jones reflects. “This opportunity to nationally highlight program successes is not only an excellent acknowledgement of the progress of South Carolina's programs, but also an opportunity for other AHECs to explore potential ventures for their state.”

“The South Carolina Health Careers Program Creates Innovative Experiences for Pipeline Students and their Parents”

- A poster describing the content and current outcomes of the Health Careers Academy was displayed in the general meeting room of the conference. Pictures of HCA events and student quotes were focal points of the poster. The colorful presentation was composed by the Regional AHEC Center HCP Coordinators and constructed by Deborah Carson, AHEC Associate Director for Education, and Ragan DuBose-Morris, Program Services Manager.

South Carolina AHEC continues to develop and implement best practices learned from participating in these national events.

Mid-Carolina AHEC Round Up

Continuing Education: Mid-Carolina AHEC's Continuing Education goal is to plan offerings to educate healthcare providers in topics pertaining to the most prevalent diseases in South Carolina. Heart disease is the number one killer in South Carolina. In order to address this issue, American Heart Association Training Center instructors train thousands of healthcare providers yearly in Basic Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced Life Support, as well as train community members in CPR.

Forty-four Continuing Education classes are scheduled for the fall to educate healthcare providers including physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapists; pharmacy, surgical, and radiology technicians; medical coders and social workers. Upcoming nursing Continuing Education offerings will train medical-surgical, orthopedic, pediatric, critical care, emergency department, operating room, post anesthesia care, long-term care, hospice, rehabilitation, oncology, and psychiatric nurses.

Mid-Carolina AHEC is proud to co-sponsor the 17th Annual South Carolina/North Carolina Perinatal Conference in Myrtle Beach on September 26-28, 2010, and the 27th Annual HIV/STD Conference on October 26-28, 2010, at the Columbia Convention Center.

Health Careers Program: The Mid-Carolina AHEC's Health Careers Program is proud to announce the start of social networking events for Health Careers Academy students. These monthly events allow current Health Careers Academy members, alumni, and prospective students to socially network with their peers, parents, and other invited healthcare professionals in the community. The first event was held in July at the Royal Z Lanes Bowling Alley in Columbia, South Carolina. The 25 students in attendance were able to network with Carlos Hill, a teacher from Fairfield Central High School, and Travena Hawkins, a mother of two who is studying to become a medical transcriptionist.



Mid-Carolina AHEC provided Summer Enrichment Internships to 12 students at sites including Columbia Rehabilitation Clinic, Richland Community Healthcare Center, Fairfield Memorial Hospital, and Palmetto Baptist Hospital. According to Demetria Bannister, a freshman at USC Aiken, "These experiences allowed us the opportunity to communicate with patients, have hands on experience, properly position patients, and to get an idea of the hard work required in the medical field."

In the upcoming year, the Mid-Carolina AHEC Health Careers Program looks forward to the new faces and educational opportunities to expand the Health Careers Academy.

Health Professions Student Program: The 2010 session of SCRIPT (the South Carolina Rural Interdisciplinary Program of Training) at Mid-Carolina AHEC hosted 11 students for an eye-opening five weeks of immersion in rural life and rural healthcare settings.

Students representing Clemson, Winthrop, South Carolina State, MUSC, and the South Carolina College of Pharmacy participated in a one-week workshop on rural and cross-cultural healthcare issues and spent the next four weeks with a preceptor in their particular discipline in Chester, Lancaster, and Fairfield counties. Health Professions Student Coordinators Julie Ghent and Jeff Cauthen enjoy seeing the "light come on" the first week, knowing the students will be mentally engaged when they get into their clinical setting and have the opportunity to learn and add value to the community.



Halford Award Presented to Hunter (Woody) Woodall, MD

The 2010 South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) James G. Halford, Jr., MD Award for Leadership in Humane Education was bestowed on Hunter (Woody) Woodall, MD, on June 18, 2010, at the South Carolina Academy of Family Physician's Annual Meeting in Litchfield Beach, SC.

The Halford Award is presented to a Family Medicine residency training program faculty member in recognition of outstanding leadership in providing humane education. Award winners demonstrate a caring attitude and respect for patients, residents and students; value human dignity; demonstrate a passion and joy for learning, working and playing with others and participate in community service activities.

Dr. Woodall graduated from the Vanderbilt University of School of Medicine and the Charlotte Memorial Hospital (Carolina's Medical Center) Family Medicine Residency Program.

Dr. David Garr, Executive Director of the South Carolina AHEC presented Dr. Woodall the Halford Award. Dr. Garr read some of the excerpts from the letters that were submitted on behalf of Dr. Woodall:

"Dr. Woodall is a Professor of Family Medicine. He is not only board certified in Family Medicine, but also in Palliative Care and Addiction Medicine. He is the Medical Director of the Rainey Hospice House in Anderson, the first in-patient hospice program in South Carolina. He devotes many hours to the direct care of patients at the Hospice House, where he also educates residents from the Anderson Family Medicine Residency Program and others who rotate through on a Palliative Care elective. He is known for his compassion and deep caring for the patients who are receiving care in the hospice program. He is known to sit and sing spiritual hymns in his deep baritone voice at the bedside of his patients."

"Being board certified in Palliative Care as well as Addiction Medicine, Dr. Woodall accepts patients into his



Dr. Garr presents Dr. Woodall with the 2010 Halford Award

practice whom few others would choose to care for. He patiently and tenderly provides quality medical care to those who desperately need someone to listen with concern for their issues. Woody does this with eagerness and professionalism."

"Dr. Woodall loves to teach! He continues to provide a full-range of family medicine practice including obstetrics. He loves to share delivery techniques he employed during his years of practice in rural Fairfax, South Carolina."

"Dr. Woodall and his wife, Sylvia, are active members of their church. They sing in the choir as well as in the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Chorale. Woody has also been a soccer referee for many years. In addition, he volunteers at the local free clinic. He and his wife have also served on medical missions in Central and South America."

In summary, Dr. Woodall truly embodies all of the attributes sought in a recipient for the Halford Award. South Carolina AHEC congratulates Dr. Woodall on this achievement!

Inaugural South Carolina AHEC Excellence in Family Medicine Education Award Presented to Dr. Counts

The first South Carolina AHEC Excellence in Family Medicine Education Award was presented to Sandra H. Counts, PharmD, at the South Carolina AHEC Resident Scholarship Symposium on June 19, 2010.

This award was established to honor a non-physician teacher for excellence in resident education, with demonstrated skills in teaching, curriculum development, mentoring, research, and leadership in education.

Dr. Counts graduated from the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1983 and has been a faculty member of the Charleston Family Medicine Residency Program since graduation.

Dr. David Garr, Executive Director of the South Carolina AHEC, presented Dr. Counts with this award. Dr. Garr read some of the excerpts from the letters that were submitted on behalf of Dr. Counts:

"Dr. Counts loves to teach. All her teaching is laced with her special sense of humor. She has a special interest in Alternative Medicine and Women's Health. Residents clamor to be in attendance at her noon conference lectures. She does occasional inpatient rounds with our adult teaching service team. She leads discussions each Friday with our residents and faculty about pharmaceutical detailing

conducted at our conference that week. She strives to ensure a fair and balanced presentation of material. She researches information from non-industry resources to be sure of a balanced presentation."

"Sandra has a wonderful smile and seems to never meet a stranger. Her sense of humor is appropriate and can defuse uncomfortable situations. She serves as an advisor for family medicine residents."

"She is active on the state level working with other PharmD faculty to maintain our excellent statewide pharmacology curriculum. She serves on various editorial boards. Dr. Counts speaks locally, regionally and nationally on various topics."

"Sandra is very active in the community. She and her husband, Scott, are active members of their local church where they serve in several capacities. She is a member of the Advisory Board of Volunteers in Medical Missions, a group that many of our faculty and residents do medical mission trips with."

Dr. Counts exemplifies all of the attributes for this award. Congratulations to Dr. Counts!



Dr. Garr presents Dr. Counts with the 2010 Excellence in Family Medicine Education Award

Lowcountry AHEC Welcomes New Team Member

Tracey Wilson began working at Lowcountry AHEC in August 2010 as the Administrative & Data Management Assistant. Previously, she was employed at Edisto Pediatric Clinic as a medical office assistant and as an accounts receivable clerk at Clean Management in Walterboro. Her duties include reception, data management for the South Carolina AHEC database, and assisting the program coordinators.

Tracey can be contacted at wilsont@lcahec.com.



Tan J. Platt, MD Named SCAFP Family Physician of the Year

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (SCAFP) is pleased to announce that Tan J. Platt, MD of Columbia, South Carolina has been selected as the 2010-2011 SCAFP Family Physician of the Year. Dr. Platt was presented the South Carolina Family Physician of the Year Award during the SCAFP Summer Break Away & Annual Assembly, June 14-19, 2010, at the Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort, Pawleys Island, SC.

A graduate of Trinity College and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Platt completed his family medicine training at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, Colorado. He served with the National Health Service Corp in South Dakota before opening his own rural practice in Cobleshill, New York. After more than nine years in private practice, a position with MedCentral/Human MedFirst brought Dr. Platt and his family to Columbia, SC. The following year he made the transition to serving as Associate Professor for the University of South Carolina School of Medicine at the Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital Family Medicine Residency Program and Medical Director of Richland Family Practice Associates, the program's private practice. That same year he became Medical Director of Babcock Center, Inc., a position that he remains in today. His big heart and love for children showed even more when three years later he became Medical Director for Epworth Children's Home (a position he still holds today). In addition, Dr. Platt serves as the Associate Medical Director for Companion HealthCare. He has also served in other administrative and educational activities in the residency program, including Vice Chair of the Department. He is dedicated to the education of future physicians and participates in the education and mentoring of medical students and residents. In 1999, South Carolina AHEC honored Dr. Platt with the Halford Award for Leadership in Humane Education.

In nominating Dr. Platt for the Family Physicians of the Year award, a colleague wrote, "We met when I began my residency program in 1992 and he was assigned as my advisor. Little did I know this would flourish into a lifelong friendship. Professionally, I have observed him to be extremely competent,

compassionate, civic minded and a well versed physician. He provides comprehensive care to the patients in our office but also to a population of South Carolinians that are mentally and physically challenged. He has been a champion for the physically, mentally and the economically disadvantaged." The member went on to say, "As we face this tenuous time in the era of healthcare reform, he has been on the forefront for trying to find a plan that

will serve all the citizens of this state fairly and economically. He has been very involved in legislative advocacy efforts within our state and makes every effort to keep our clinical practice updated and engaged."

Dr. Platt is involved in organized medicine and his local community. He is a member the South Carolina Medical Association and has served on various committees. He is also a member of the Columbia Medical Society. He is a past president of the SCAFP, served in numerous leadership positions, and currently serves as a delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians. In his local community, Dr. Platt has served on the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) Collaborative Advisory Committee, the South Carolina Autism Medical Advisory Committee, the Medical Services Committee for the Carolina Marathon, and the Olympic Trials. Dr. Platt also serves as a volunteer at the Free Medical Clinic.

Congratulations to Tan J. Platt, MD, for being named the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians Family Physician of the Year for his many contributions to his patients, colleagues, the community, and the specialty of family medicine!



Residents Immersed in Research & Networking at Scholarship Symposium

The South Carolina AHEC Resident Scholarship Symposium was held in conjunction with the South Carolina Academy of Family Physician's Annual Meeting on June 18 and 19, 2010, at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, Pawley's Island, SC.

A total of 44 residents attended, along with the eight family medicine residency program directors and their faculty. The residents were invited to the Annual Luncheon with the Academy members and a dinner on Friday evening.

On Saturday afternoon, a seminar was held for physicians who will be chief residents during the 2010-11 academic year. Franklin Medio, Ph.D., with Consulting Services for the Health Professions, conducted the session. The agenda included workshops on "Being an Effective Chief Resident" and "Becoming an Effective Clinical Teacher." Chief residents from each family medicine residency program attended the seminar.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, the Symposium provided an opportunity for residents to present brief 10-minute scholarly presentations. Presentations were categorized into basic research and quality improvement projects. Sixteen abstracts were presented.

The distinguished panel of judges for the Symposium were Stoney Abercrombie, MD, Director of Medical Education and Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program, AnMed Health; Otis Baughman, MD, Director of Medical Education and Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center; and Lori Dickerson, PharmD, Assistant Family Medicine Residency Program Director at Trident Medical Center/MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program. Peter Carek, MD, Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Trident Medical Center/MUSC Family Medicine Residency Program was the Moderator for the Symposium.

An Awards Luncheon was held after the Symposium to recognize the following Symposium winners:

First Place – Basic Research

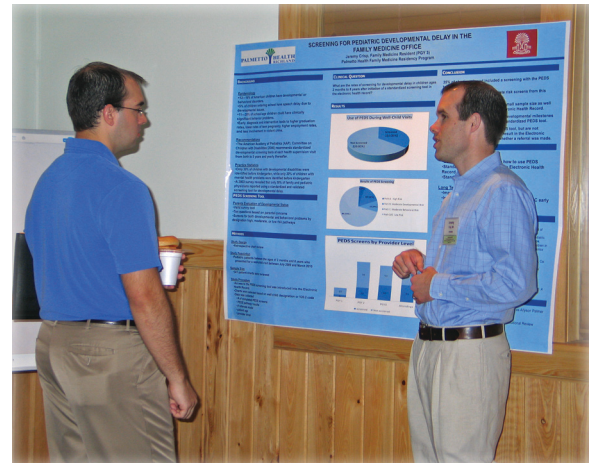
Mark B. Dudley, MHP, DO – Spartanburg – Family Medicine
The Scope of Obesity, Defining Barriers to a Healthy Weight

Second Place – Basic Research

Nikki Hughes, MD – Family Medicine – Charleston
Clinician Knowledge about Intrauterine Devices in Adolescents

Third Place – Basic Research

Katrina Herring, MD and Laurie De Grand, MD – Family Medicine - Charleston
Knowledge and Barriers of Taking Folic Acid in Young Reproductive Aged Women



Poster sessions presented clinical research projects



Dr. Mark Dudley was presented with his award for first place in the Basic Research Division by Dr. Peter Carek

Continued on page 17...

First Place – Quality Improvement

Douglas Wiley, DO – Family Medicine – Spartanburg
*Evaluation of Different Screening Frequencies in Detecting
Early Childhood Anemia*

Second Place – Quality Improvement

Jennifer Lane, MD and Katherine Roth, MD – Family
Medicine - Spartanburg
*Increasing Compliance with the 2006 CDC Guidelines for HIV
Testing*

Third Place – Quality Improvement

Ginny Gottschalk, MD – Family Medicine – Columbia
*Patient Hand-Off on the Inpatient Service of the Palmetto
Health Family Medicine Residency Program*



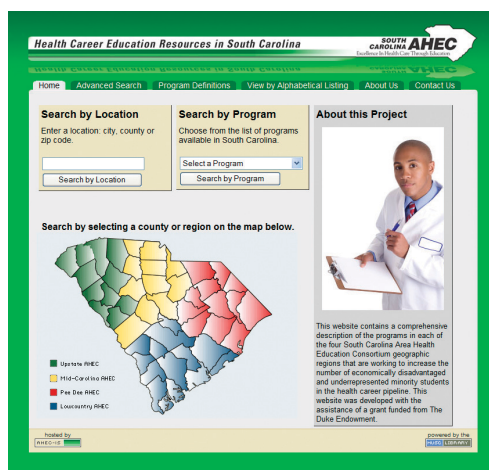
Dr. Douglas Wiley was presented with his award for first place
in the Quality Improvement Division by Dr. Peter Carek

Poster Presentations

Jeremy Crisp, MD – Family Medicine – Columbia
Screening for Pediatric Developmental Delay in the Family Medicine Office

Julie Fritz, MD and Andrea Matthews, MD – Family Medicine - Charleston
Incidence of Childhood Obesity in a Suburban Family Medicine Clinic

The South Carolina AHEC Family Medicine Residency Program Directors sponsored this event. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Seignious, Director, AHEC Recruitment and Retention Programs at 843-792-4439 or seignior@musc.edu.



The Health Career Education Resources in South Carolina website is an electronic database that contains information about agencies and organizations that support the preparation of minorities and underserved residents of South Carolina who are interested in exploring or pursuing professions of healthcare. The website is made possible through the support of The Duke Endowment. Access the HCEW website at <http://ahec.library.musc.edu/hcer>.

R.N., C.S.I.? Forensic Nursing Education Provided for Pee Dee AHEC

*Cheryl Neuner, RN-C; BSN, Continuing Education
Coordinator, Pee Dee AHEC*

Health related fields are becoming more diversified and you never know where a nurse may turn up. Look no further than your next crime scene or death investigation. Like many others, I have long been intrigued by the use of forensics during evidence collection, prosecution, and conviction of criminals.

My curiosity (along with well-honed "Googling" skills) led me to a "Forensics" website. One article caught my attention. The author was Bobbi Jo O'Neal, RN, BSN, F-ABMDI, Deputy Coroner for Charleston County. I was both fascinated and curious as to how a nurse winds up as a coroner and was compelled to contact her immediately. I received a return call and was surprised to learn that her counterpart, Rae Wooten, RN, BSN, F-ABMDI, is serving as the Coroner for Charleston County. Both graciously agreed to come to Florence and educate nurses on Forensics in Nursing.

Although not widely known, nurses have used their talents in death investigations since the early 1970's, beginning in Canada. Since then recognition has come and the International Association of Forensic Nursing has become active in 22 countries. In 1995 the American Nurses Association recognized Forensic Nursing as a specialty. These organizations believe that nursing and forensics are a logical fit. A nurse's training is typically well rooted in a strong understanding of human anatomy and physiology, numerous disease processes, and traumatic injuries. Nurses possess a great deal of background knowledge in Pharmacology and Toxicology, which are often prevalent in investigations. Nurses also know about human growth and development. If you are investigating an infant death you know if an infant is capable of turning and rolling depending on their stage of development, making it easier to ascertain truth during an interview of caregivers and better differentiate between an accidental death and foul play. Over time, nurses develop critical thinking and interviewing skills so necessary in obtaining pertinent information to a case. Nurses are also well versed in the grief process and are a real asset to families.

So how does one become a forensics nurse? There is no set method for the process. There are forensics programs online and in many universities, but didactic training alone will not necessarily guarantee you a position in nursing forensics. As Ms. O'Neal stated, "You are probably not going to open the paper and see a position posted for a forensics nurse. You must seek as much training on your own and also be willing to effectively market yourself." Both speakers suggested supplemental training programs such as the S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Training, forensic photography for adequate evidence collection as well as training in interviewing. There are a myriad of areas in which nurses can become proficient investigators including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. Ms. O'Neal recently authored "Investigating Infant Deaths" and coordinated the only hands-on death investigational internship for nurses in the country. She even performs re-enactments with the involved parties utilizing dolls during these investigations.

Once one becomes proficient in these skills they can then begin to market those skills and services to the solicitors' offices, coroners' offices, hospitals, etc. Furthermore, forensic nurses have found niches in public health/safety, the legal system, mass disaster management, corrections, legal nurse consulting, and ER/Trauma services. Often times, nurses working their way into these niches eventually create positions geared toward these skills. Above all, both Ms. Wooten and Ms. O'Neal stressed to the fascinated group not to give up on their goal of a career in forensic nursing. In fact we received numerous requests for subsequent forensic nursing programs and plan to provide these programs in the very near future. Both of these nurses are walking "evidence" that with the proper guidance and education, you can take your nursing career in any direction you choose.

For more information, please contact Cheryl Neuner at (843) 777-5347 or cneuner@mcleodhealth.org.

For Forensic Organization information contact:

- **South Carolina IAFN Chapter**
803-242-6208
Sabrina Gast at jsgast@comporium.net
- **American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators**
abmdi@slu.edu
- **International Association of Forensic Nurses**
www.iafn.org

Electronic Health Records (EHR): Moving Toward Meaningful Use

DATES & LOCATIONS

Friday, September 17, 2010
The University Center of Greenville
225 South Pleasantburg Drive
Greenville, SC 29607

Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Kershaw Health Resource Center
124 Battleship Road
Camden, SC 29020

Friday, November 5, 2010
McLeod Medical Plaza Center
800 Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29502

Friday, November 19, 2010
Coastal Carolina Hospital Medical Plaza
1010 Medical Park Drive, Suite 220
Hardeeville, SC 29927

Registration & Lunch 11:30 AM
Program 12:00 - 5:30 PM

*This activity has been approved for
AMA PRA Category I Credit.*



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CALL FOR ARTICLES:

The editorial staff of "South Carolina AHEConnects" welcomes the submission of articles, success stories and upcoming events for the Winter Edition.

Please forward information, articles and photos to Ragan DuBose-Morris at duboser@musc.edu. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2010.

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